

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 2, 4, 17, 18 and 20 are currently amended, Claims 1, 5, 9, 13 and 19 are canceled without prejudice, new Claims 22-26 have been added, and Claims 3, 6-8, 10-12 and 14-16 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 4, 8, 12-13 and 16 include allowable subject matter.

Allowable Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 4 is allowable. Dependent Claims 5, 8-9, 12-13, 16-18 depend from independent Claim 4 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-3, 6-7, 10-11 and 14-15 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112.

Allowable Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112. Therefore, Claim 2 is allowable. Dependent Claims 3, 6-7, 10-11 and 14-15 depend from independent Claim 2 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

The Examiner did not approve the drawings submitted on June 28, 2005. Applicants have resubmitted Fig. 6 with the proper heading of "New Sheet" to comply with Rule 1.121. Applicants have also submitted new Fig. 7 with the heading "New Sheet" illustrating a cross-sectional view of the roller of Fig. 6. Both Figs. 6 and 7 illustrate a reinforcing rib (6) extending from said hub (2) in a direction of said wall (31) and is not in contact with said wall (31) in the non-loaded state of said running roller, as recited in Claim 2. Figs. 6 and 7 also illustrate the limitations recited in new Claims 24-26. The subject matter of Figs. 6 and 7 was previously described in the specification and the claims. No new matter has been entered.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Markow (US 4,739,810). Claims 1, 5, 9 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Markow in view of Kent (US 4,934,017).

Independent Claim 20 has been amended to more clearly recite the wall of the roller. Claim 20 recites a roller, comprising: a roller body with a front side and a rear

side having: a hub extending between the front side and the rear side; a running ring extending between the front side and the rear side; a wall connecting said running ring and said hub, said wall having: a first region, a second region, and a third region; the second region extending between the front side and the rear side; and the first region extending between the hub and the second region; the third region extending between the second region and the running ring; at least one reinforcing rib extending from the second region of said wall and being disposed between the wall and at least one of the hub and the running ring, the at least one reinforcing rib having a free end being disposed adjacent and spaced apart from at least one of the hub and the running ring and being in contact with neither said hub nor said running ring in a non-loaded state of said running roller.

Markow does not disclose, among other things, a wall having “a first region, a second region, and a third region; the second region extending between the front side and the rear side; and the first region extending between the hub and the second region; the third region extending between the second region and the running ring” and “at least one reinforcing rib extending from the second region of said wall”, as recited in Claim 20.

For these and other reasons, Markow does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claim 20. Therefore, Claim 20 is allowable. Claims 22-25 depend from Claim 20 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

New independent Claim 24 recites a roller, comprising: a roller body with a front side and a rear side having: a hub extending between the front side and the rear side; a running ring extending between the front side and the rear side; a wall connecting said running ring and said hub, said wall having: a first region, a second region, and a third region; the second region extending between the front side and the rear side; and the first region extending between the hub and the second region; the third region extending between the second region and the running ring; at least one reinforcing rib extending from one of the hub and the running ring and being disposed between the wall and at least one of the hub and the running ring, the at least one reinforcing rib having a free end being disposed adjacent and spaced apart from the second region and not being in contact with the second region in a non-loaded state of said roller.

The prior art, particularly Markow, does not disclose a roller as recited in Claim 24. More specifically, the prior art does not disclose, among other things, a wall having “a first region, a second region, and a third region; the second region extending between the front side and the rear side; and the first region extending between the hub and the second region; the third region extending between the second region and the running ring” and “at least one reinforcing rib extending from one of the hub and the running ring and being disposed between the wall and at least one of the hub and the running ring, the at least one reinforcing rib having a free end being disposed adjacent and spaced apart from the second region and not being in contact with the second region in a non-loaded state of said roller.”

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of independent Claim 24. Claims 25-26 depend from Claim 24 and should be allowed for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-18, 20 and 22-26 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. Please note that Applicants have changed representation and are now represented by new counsel. The formal Revocation of Power of Attorney / New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address documents were filed in a previous paper.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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APPENDIX A